

**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009 - 3:00 P.M.**

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

**Item 1:** Tanny Berg called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those present were:

**Tanny Berg, Chair** – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)  
**Mike Breitingner**, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)  
**Analisa Cordova**, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)  
**Saul Frank**, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)  
**Jorge Salom**, (Mayor John Cook)  
**Michelle Barron**, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)

**ABSENT:**

**Gerardo Camacho**, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)  
**Dan Chavez**, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)  
**VACANT**, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Said Larbi-Cherif, International Bridges Director  
Ray Mendoza, International Bridges  
Jorge Hernandez, Downtown business/property owner  
Christopher Hernandez – son of Jorge Hernandez

**Item 2:**

Motion made by Ms Barron, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to approve the minutes to the last meeting of September 16, 2008.

**AYES:** Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitingner, Mr. Frank, Mr. Salom

**NAYS:** None

**Item 3: Discussion and Action on Bridge Management Report.**

**Item #A Monthly Traffic and Revenue Report**

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif spoke on percentages of traffic at international bridges. Commercial, passenger and pedestrian traffic are the lowest in past ten years. Revenue is down by 9%; wait times are longer; parking meter revenue is down by .04%. Mr. Tanny Berg requested a copy of the resolution that allocates the fees from parking meters to pay for the Plaza Theater.

**Item #B: Update on Stanton and Santa Fe Improvement Projects**

Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented that the Stanton POE looks like it is almost completed. The redesign at Paso Del Norte will be at Parkhill, Smith and Cooper's cost. The next phase will be to hire an artist to create public art.

#### Item #C: Update on New Commuter POE Project

Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented that there is a problem with financing for the commuter POE.

#### Item #D: Update on Zaragoza POE Expansion Project

Mr. Larbi-Cherif stated that the RFQ is to hire a consultant for expansion and develop a strategic plan for the Department. The RFQ is due the month of February 2009. It will include a 5 year strategic plan that will help the International Bridges Department and have a vision towards the future. An annual bridge inspection was held and the bridges are not in bad shape. Mr. Tanny Berg commented if it was possible to replace the bridges and place money in a fund to do so. He also asked if the commission could interview the consultant. Mr. Larbi-Cherif stated that yes, the commission could interview and that there are funds available. He also stated that the final plans for the canopy would be ready at the end of June 2009. Funding from TXDOT is good as long as the project is completed prior to the end of October 2009. Ms. Michelle Barron asked why the wait until June and Mr. Larbi-Cherif replied that everything would be finalized with PSC on 1/21/2009.

#### **Item 4: Discussion and Action on the GSA project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.**

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented that the four new lanes are open. West Tag finished by the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2009. An improvement will be seen in the wait times. Mr. Bill Molaski was named as the new port director and may be able to attend IBC meetings. Mr. Tanny Berg requested that there be publicity to let the public know about the open lanes. He also asked if Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif and Mr. Ray Mendoza have toured the facility. Mr. Larbi-Cherif replied that yes they have and that everything looks like it is ready. Mr. Berg asked if they were coordinating with Sun Metro. Mr. Larbi-Cherif replied that yes Sun Metro is aware and making some changes to accommodate pedestrian traffic. City Council is also set to approve no parking zones downtown.

#### **Item 5: Discussion and Action on Potential Proposals for Shortening Wait Times at the Ports of Entry.**

Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented that CBP is working on shortening wait times. There is an implementation of the passport to return to the US. There is also coordination with Sun Metro and signs have been placed to advise the public about required documentation to return. Starting June 1, 2009 new documentation will be needed to return to the US. Mr. Berg asked about the recent incident with the Mexican army troops crossing the bridge into the US with weapons; he wanted to know if that impede traffic at all. Mr. Larbi-Cherif and Mr. Ray Mendoza both replied that it had no effect on traffic.

**Item 6: Discussion and Action on annual report recommendations to be presented by the Commission to Mayor and City Council**

Motion made by Ms Cordova, seconded by Ms. Barron and carried to approve the presentation of the report to council the first week of February 2009.

**AYES:** Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitingner, Mr. Frank, Mr. Salom

**NAYS:** None

Mr. Tanny Berg wanted to know if some commissioners would be willing to appear at the council meeting to present the report. He was answered in the positive. Ms. Cordova asked about the security services at the Bridges in response to the recent incident of a Delphi executive's attempted kidnapping. She suggested that more specifics be included in the report on how security has been increased at the bridges.

**Item 7: Discussion and Action on 2009 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif made the comment that the meeting day be changed from Tuesdays to a different day of the week, due to City Council meeting on Tuesdays; this request per Jane Shang. It was stated that the schedule be discussion at the commission meeting in February 2009. Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented that the police department, Sun Metro and CBP port director Bill Molaski will be invited to attend the next IBC meeting. Mr. Ray Mendoza commented that the department is trying to have the agenda ready earlier in the week before the date of the meetings so that commission members can review.

**Item 8: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:** Mr. Jorge Hernandez a downtown business and property owner introduced himself and his son Mr. Christopher Hernandez. He commented that they were attending the meeting with an interest in becoming a commission member.

**Item 10: Adjourn.**

Motion made by Ms Barron, seconded by Mr. Jorge Salom and carried to adjourn the meeting.

**AYES:** Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitingner, Mr. Frank, Ms. Cordova

**NAYS:** None

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**Approved as to form:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary